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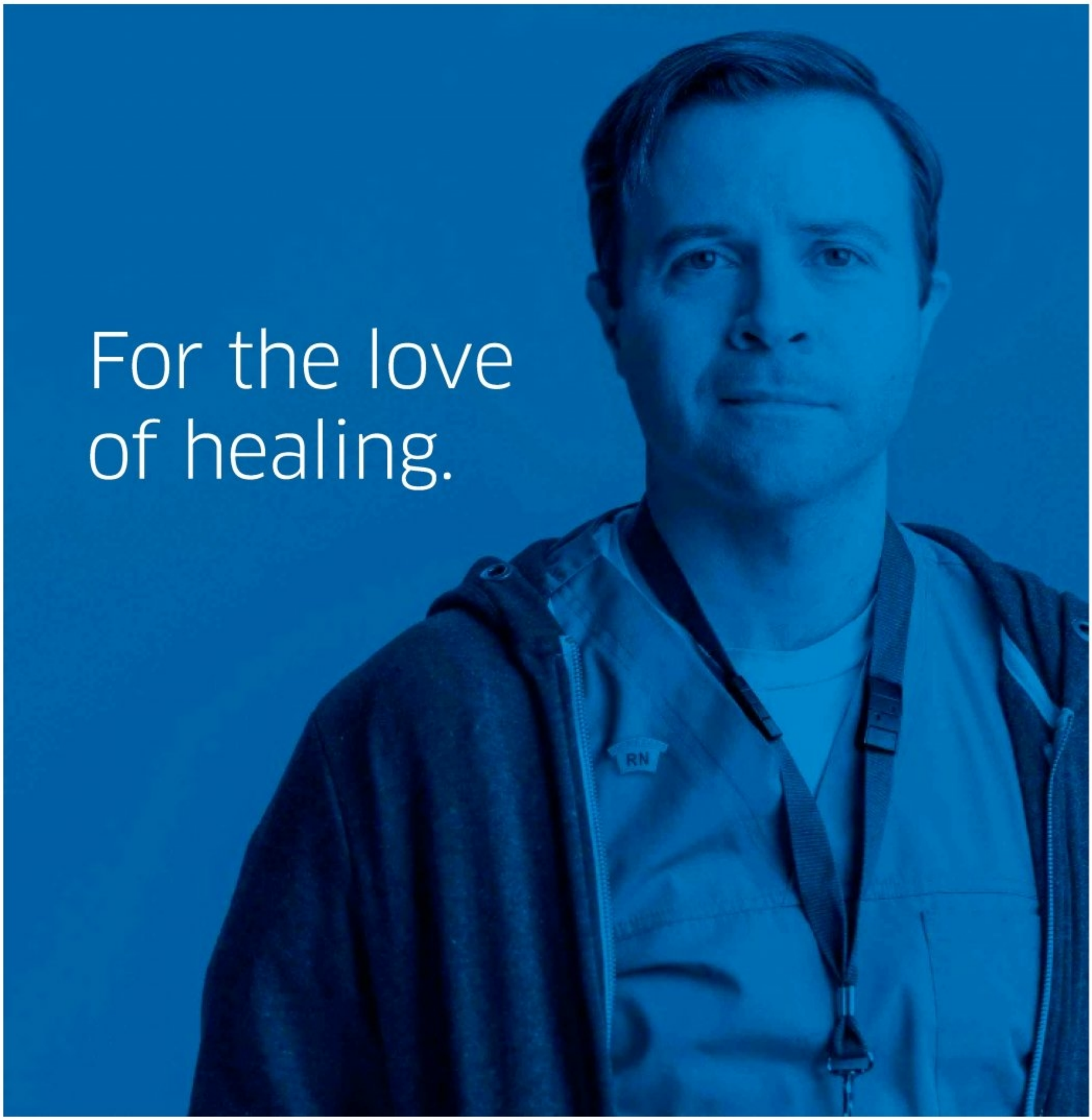

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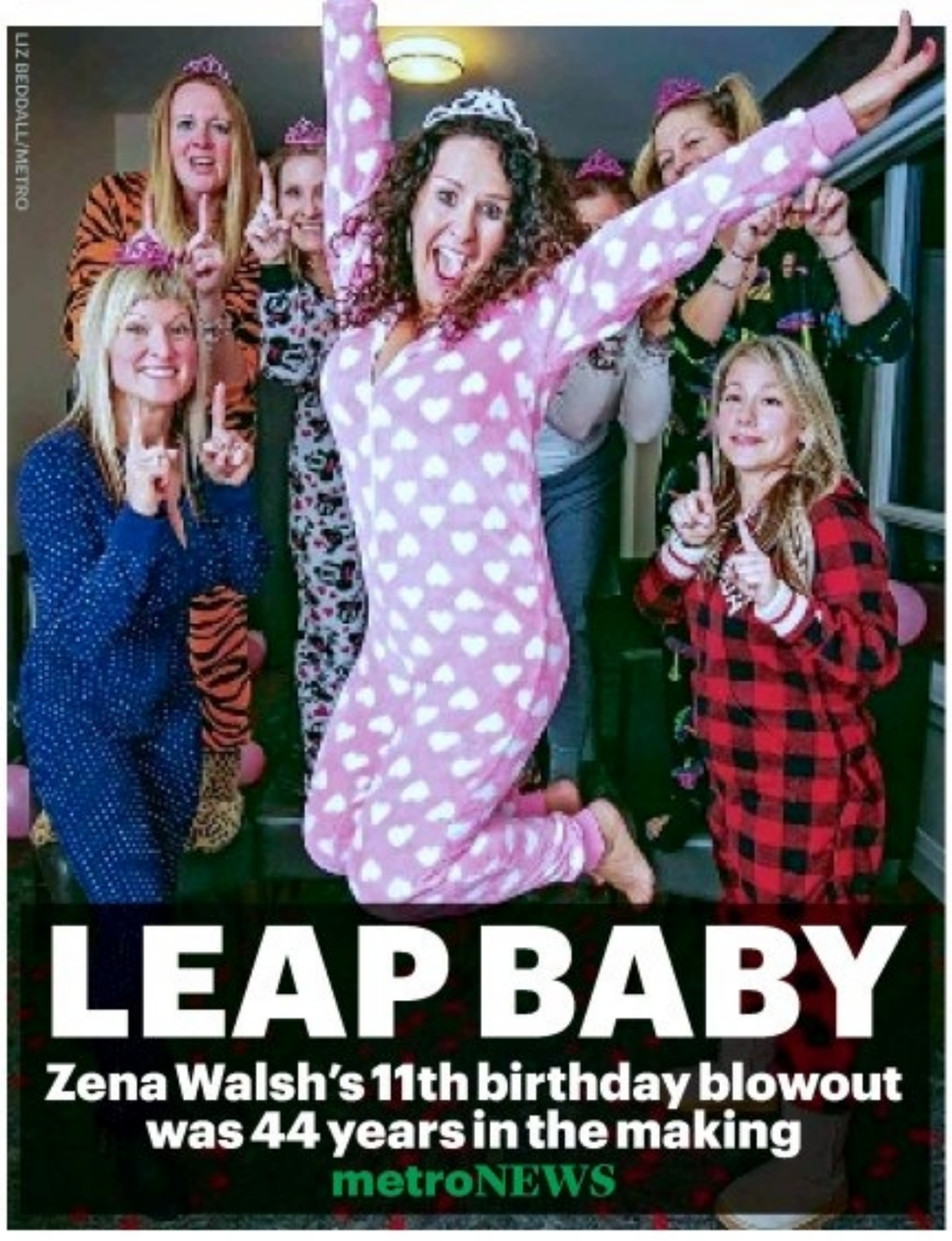

LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

LEAP BABY

Zena Walsh's 11th birthday blowout was 44 years in the making

metroNEWS

T.O. families caught between city, union

STRIKE?

Breakdown in talks prompts city to release details of 'final offer'

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

As talks between city and its inside workers break down, Toronto residents are worried they'll be caught in the middle in the event of a strike.

"I would be very disappointed, that's for sure," said April Negus.

On a sunny Sunday afternoon, Negus, her daughter Savannah and son William were playing in the garden outside The John Innes Community Centre in Moss Park.

On a cooler day, they'd have been inside, enjoying the pool and other sports.

"Savannah actually just decided she wants to do gymnastics. Williams loves basketball," Negus said. "This is their place and any closure would be bad for their plans."

Negotiations between the city and CUPE Local 79 reached a stalemate Sunday, with both sides accusing the other of walking away from the table.

The breakdown prompted the city to release details of its "final offer" to the union. It included measures to provide more consistent scheduling for part-time workers and wage increases in line with what outside workers accepted last week.

"This about being honest and open and transparent not only with our employees, but also with the public so they can see the state of our negotiations," Mayor John Tory told reporters at a press conference.

In a separate news conference held across the street from City Hall, Local 79 president Tim Maguire called the city "disrespectful" for making bargaining details public. He also reiterated that the union is still willing to talk.

As the two sides look to iron out their differences, families who depend on city services are hoping a strike can be averted.

"I hope they come up with some kind of agreement," said Craig Walker, who regularly uses the swimming pool at St. Lawrence Community Centre. His seven-year-old daughter Maeve also attends Brownies there.

"Closing it would affect us strongly," he said. "We don't want to struggle looking for other places."

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Craig Walker, his wife Shelley and daughter Maeve are regulars at the St. Lawrence Community Centre. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

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Your essential daily news

Feds to review convictions of gay men made before homosexual acts were decriminalized. **Canada**

Time to pick up men's makeup

COSMETICS

Founder says most users are professionals looking sharp

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

A Toronto entrepreneur found the inspiration for his burgeoning business from the most unappealing of sources: teenage acne.

Yes, Andrew Grella got pimples on prom night.

"I went to all these places I thought would have products for men to fix the problem, but I couldn't find anything," Grella recalled. "Then I came home, and my mom basically attacked me with her makeup bag."

The makeup worked, and he went to prom looking good. But he was left wondering why there wasn't anything on the market for men.

Fast-forward a few years, and Grella's company — Formen — launched while he was still a student at Ryerson. Now, thanks to a city program for young entrepreneurs, he's preparing to hit the market en masse, working with a distributor to get his products on store shelves in South Korea.

"A lot of buyers and people interested in skin care for their stores will go to South Korea to see what's happening and what's coming down the pipeline," Grella said. "Being in South Korea will give you clout as a product or technology that's on its way."

He hopes to be in Canadian stores within a year.

For now, Grella is selling products online, including those that mask under-eye bags, a product that reduces facial shine, cream for your complexion and, of course, concealer for those nasty pimples.

Customers tend to be professionals who literally want to put their best face forward. That's reflected in the makeup's branding, Grella said.

On his website, you won't find videos of women falling all over makeup-wearing men or bottles blinged out with gunmetal grey, as is the case with many other men's products.

Instead, Grella offers tutorials on how to apply makeup subtly and correctly because many of his customers don't really know how to use it.

TOP TIPS

Andrew Grella's tips for applying makeup you can't tell is there:

1. Use as little product as you possibly can.
2. Test it out first so you know how much to apply.
3. Keep your skin healthy, and you'll need less product.
4. Drink lots of water and moisturize.

BEFORE AND AFTER Andrew Grella subtly mellowed the darkness under his eyes using the Formen under-eye concealer, brightening CC cream and invisible blotting powder.

Andrew Grella oversees the Formen skin care and makeup line from his office at the Joe Fresh Centre for Fashion Innovation. ALL PHOTOS: LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

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Stepmother appeals conviction

JUSTICE

Maria Shepherd asking court for acquittal in toddler's death

Photographs of young Kasandra are cherished by the Shepherd family, but you won't find any on display in their Brampton home.

The images of the toddler come out just twice a year, a private indulgence reserved for Kasandra's birthday in mid-December, then Christmas, when the three-year-old known as KC looks out from an ornament hung on the tree.

Come January, the photos are once again tucked away, where they can't prompt painful questions from those who don't know the family's tragedy — one that was only beginning on the spring day in 1991 when Kasandra died.

Nearly 25 years after she was convicted of manslaughter in the death of her step-daughter, Maria Shepherd hopes the injustice that resulted from that tragedy will be undone inside Ontario's Court of Appeal Monday.

"I'm hoping and I'm praying," Shepherd said in an emotional recent interview, "that the truth will be out and we will be free."

Shepherd was 21, pregnant and facing serious jail time when her lawyer told her she stood little chance against the "best of the best" — Dr. Charles Smith, the forensic child pathologist implicating her in Kasandra's death.

Under enormous pressure, Shepherd pleaded guilty to manslaughter, a calculated move made to limit the impact on her remaining children, but which came at the expense of the truth.

She did not know that nearly two decades later, a review of Smith's work would reveal the pathologist made egregious errors in 20 child death cases, including Kasandra's.

In response, the Ontario Court of Appeal allowed Shepherd, now 46, to appeal her conviction and ask the court for an acquittal. Court documents filed earlier this month show Attorney General Madeleine Meilleur agrees the conviction should be quashed "in the interest of justice."

Left: Maria Shepherd was convicted of manslaughter in the death of her three-year-old stepdaughter, Kasandra. Dr. Charles Smith was the pathologist on the case and gave evidence in court.
RICK MADONIK/TORONTO STAR
Above: Kasandra died of causes that were never properly determined.
CONTRIBUTED

It's expected Shepherd will become the latest Smith victim to be exonerated at her hearing Monday morning. Smith's evidence "was fundamentally flawed," the Crown writes in its factum. New evidence from forensic experts establishes Kasandra may have died of natural causes, and that her death should have been classified as "undetermined."

One expert called Smith's theory that Shepherd killed Kasandra with a blow to the head so hard it left an impression from her watch "complete nonsense."

"I hope that the world can now know," Shepherd wrote in an affidavit to court, "that I did not assault or abuse Kasandra and did not cause her death."

Shepherd was charged with manslaughter and released on bail.

She pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to two years less a day. But like so many of Smith's victims, Shepherd will never get back the life she was robbed. "It has undoubtedly destroyed our lives forever, in many, many ways," Shepherd says.

Shepherd's lawyer, James Lockyer, declined to speak about the case prior to Monday's hearing.

If she is acquitted, Shepherd plans to visit Kasandra's grave in Mississauga with Ashley, her husband of 26 years, and her children, now adults.

"This time we're going to join hands and be there together, with some closure," she says.

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Refugees' health poses a challenge

SYRIA CRISIS

Conditions like war trauma need extra aid, says care centre

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Health problems presented by young Syrian refugees are among the most severe, one Toronto doctor says. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Local health-care providers are facing unfamiliar challenges in treating Syrian refugees — and at least one is calling on the Canadian government to make more resources available.

"We need any help we can get," said Paul Caulford, lead physician at the Canadian Centre for Refugee and Immigrant Healthcare. "Information on new arrivals, auxiliary support like drivers and translators, medical supplies, everything."

The number of people coming to the Scarborough clinic has "almost doubled" since Syrian refugees started arriving in November. In a word, the clinic is "swamped" both with the number of patients and the amount of care they need, Caulford said.

The centre has recruited volunteers — ranging from nurses and physicians to ER specialists and midwives — to help assess people's needs. They've found respiratory issues, hypertension, issues stemming from reproductive health and different types of infections.

But, some of the most severe cases are presented by children, many of whom "haven't seen a doctor in five years," Caulford said. The young Syrians' needs are far more severe than what some providers were prepared to encounter.

Many require specialized help that few, if any, Canadian physicians are trained to offer, Caulford said. In one particular case, the team saw a young boy who hasn't spoken or gone to school since living through a mortar attack on his family's home.

"It could be a result of trauma from the war, and the problem wasn't detected earlier on," Caulford said. Most patients have to work through translators, slowing the pace of treatment, and adding to the time crunch.

Humans of Toronto by K. Omar

"I love working with people, but I don't always feel comfortable with people.

Humans of Toronto is K. Omar's social photography project aimed at photographing and talking to people in the city. Selections from her work feature weekly in Metro. See more at Humans_of_Toronto on Instagram.

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When you're 44 after 11 birthdays

CELEBRATION

Toronto leap year baby is seizing the day

Liz Beddall
Metro | Toronto

Pink balloons are piled in each corner of a Thornhill hotel suite, while licorice, brownies, tiaras and a domino set decorate the main table. Pyjama-clad guests begin busting a move to pop tunes, signalling the party has officially begun.

But at this tweenage-dream sleepover bash, the punch is definitely spiked.

Welcome to Zena Walsh's 11th birthday blowout, a party 44 years in the making. Born on a leap year in 1972, Walsh and her pals have been blowing out her candles in a big way since she was young, but on a quarterly basis.

Zena Walsh has her special day on Monday.
PHOTOS: LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

"We always make it mandatory that we're always at each other's birthdays throughout the year, but when it's a leap year we really go crazy," Walsh said.

Born at 11:50 p.m., Walsh says her mother has always credited the maternity ward staff for her daughter's on-the-cusp arrival, saying they pressured her to push hard for the unique delivery. Over four decades later, Walsh says she's happy they did.

"It's a great talking point. When people find out they become really inquisitive. Sometimes people don't understand what a leap year is," she said.

And with that misunderstanding can come trouble.

Walsh counts missing out on a birthday freebie at her favourite shoe store, having trouble with online forms that don't recognize the 29th as a February date, and a jarring childhood incident as some of the disadvantages.

"I'll never forget this little boy — his name was Derek," she says, thinking back to her kindergarten years. "She asked the class who was four and who was five and he yelled, 'Miss you forgot the one-year-olds!'"

MEET SOME OF T.O.'S OTHER FEB. 29 BABIES

People saying it's his first birthday makes him feel like a baby and he sulks about it. I told him, he is special and he has two birthdays this year — four-year-old and a one-leap-year-old birthday!

Samarth Saikumar's mom on **Samarth**, who is one in leap years, four in actual years

Well, we didn't pay too much attention to it. I came from a good-sized family.... But my granddaughter and I both turned the legal age of 19 in 2000. I could finally drink!

Dorothy Fisher, 23 (leap years), 92 (actual years)

It makes me special. I'm an individual and my birthday reinforces that fact. Also, on the years when there is no 29th I celebrate on Feb 28 and March 1. So I have more like two birthdays.

Nicholas Holmes, eight (leap years), 32 (actual years)

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The big problem for Pearson's huge workforce

A Hainan Airlines plane lands at Pearson on Feb. 5, 2015.
CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TRANSPORTATION

GTAA report makes case to improve transit around airport

Anjali Nath's job at the AeroCentre office complex south of Pearson International Airport comes with access to a private gym and two on-site restaurants.

But those amenities interest the 12-year employee less than the private shuttle that ferries her back and forth to the Kipling subway station each day.

Without it, Nath says, she and her husband would have to buy another car. They even moved into a condo directly across from the subway station so she can use the shuttle.

It's one of the private stopgap solutions to a growing public concern — how to connect the 300,000 people who work in and around the sprawling airport landscape. It's a growing topic of discussion among business leaders, land owners, politicians and the Greater Toronto Airports Authority (GTAA).

The GTAA will release a report Monday that makes a powerful economic case for getting more of those commuters out of cars and onto transit, a problem that's been touched on in other studies by Metrolinx and the Neptis Foundation.

The latter identified the Pearson employment zone as the second largest in the country.

"That said, it lacks the higher order transit connectivity that other employment zones across the country would have," said GTAA vice-president Hillary Marshall.

The airport and employers ringing it are thriving but threatened by congestion on the surrounding roads, according to the GTAA consultant's report being released at the Toronto Region Board of Trade's Aviation Summit.

Anjali Nath BERNARD WEIL/ TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Among nine international flight hubs, Pearson was the only one with a single higher-order transit connection, the new, under-used Union Pearson Express train. All the others had at least two.

"Pearson is this absolutely critical nexus, not only in the transportation system but in the economic system," said Joe Berridge, of Urban Strategies Inc., who wrote the report, called Pearson Connects: A Multi-Modal Platform for Prosperity.

"There is a growing congestion noose around the airport. There's no date when that's fatal but it's an increasing level of impediment," he said.

About 40,000 people have jobs at Pearson, many of them lower-wage employees who work shifts. Only 8 per cent commute by transit, compared with about 40 per cent of workers at London Heathrow.

The GTAA wants to bring its transit use up to 25 to 30 per cent in the next 20 to 30 years.

"That is eminently achievable by the kinds of last-kilometre initiatives we're looking at," said Berridge, who notes that Pearson is growing at the same rate as Dubai's airport.

Around Pearson, "Those last-mile connections just don't exist in a functional manner," said Noah Gordon of Menkes Developments, which manages the AeroCentre complex and subsidizes the employee shuttle.

There are bus stops outside the AeroCentre, but the transit isn't practical for many workers.

"Outside of rush hour there's no service at all to some of those stops," said Gordon.

"There's no enclosures or anything. People don't want to sit out there in the wind, cold, sleet and snow." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

UNION-PEARSON

Fare increase a blow to taxis

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

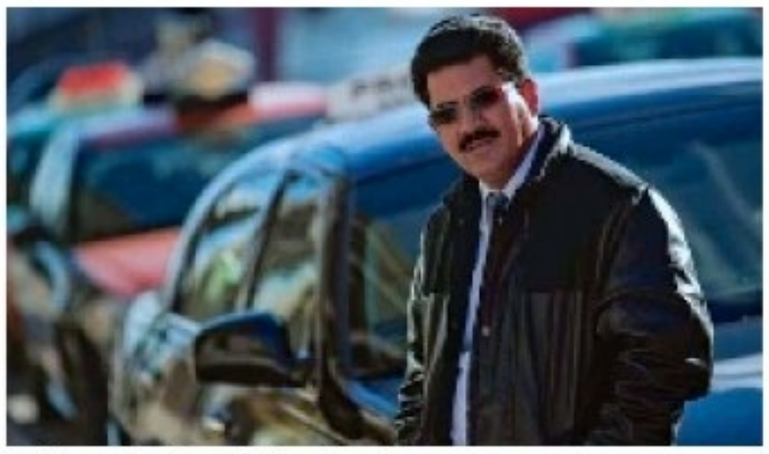
Lowering fares on the UP Express is another blow to the city's already struggling taxi industry, drivers say.

"It will significantly hurt the taxi business and the limos working at the airport," said Sajid Mughal, president of the driver's group iTaxiworkers. "It will hurt everyone."

The current cash price of the UP Express from Union Station is $27.50, a little more than the half price of a taxi to the airport from downtown, making it cost effective for couples travelling together to take a cab. But when Metrolinx drops its price on March 9, a couple will be able to make the trip for $24.

There's no doubt it will eat away at drivers' income at a time when they're continuing to take hits from Uber, Mughal said.

Beck Taxi, however, isn't sweating the fare drop.


Sajid Mughal, head of iTaxiworkers. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

"Taxis have always been complementary to mass transit, and that's what the Union-Pearson Express is," Beck operations manager Kristine Hubbard said.

Even if the city managed to build a subway to the airport and charge people TTC fares to use it wouldn't be a threat, she added.

"They are two completely different services," Hubbard said.

Meanwhile, the industry and drivers are growing frustrated as they wait to hear from City Hall on regulations that will apply to taxis and Uber.

Beck has been watching closely as other cities take action.

"We're playing the waiting game," Hubbard said.

> **They are two completely different services.**
> Kristine Hubbard, Beck Taxi

UP EXPRESS

Adult UP fares as of March 9.

- **Union-Pearson with PRESTO: $9**
- **Two stops with PRESTO: $5.02**
- **One stops with PRESTO: $5.02**
- **Union-Pearson without PRESTO: $12**
- **Two stops without PRESTO: $5.65**
- **One stops with PRESTO: $5.30**

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Climate impacts anxiety

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

Mental health of northern communities 'a big concern'

Residents of Nunatsiavut, N.L., are grieving **changes in the environment such as rising temperatures, delayed ice formation, shortened seasons, and shifting habitat**, according to PhD student Ashlee Cunsolo Willox, an assistant professor at Cape Breton University. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

It's mid-February and the ice roads into and out of Deer Lake First Nation still aren't reliable enough to officially open, a reality that weighs heavily on the minds of residents.

"It's very late. It's bad. We want to get our stuff, our supplies, housing materials, fuel. I don't know if we'll be able to get it this year (by road)," said chief Roy Dale Meekis.

Anxieties are high in this small Oji-Cree community, located about 700 kilometres northwest of Thunder Bay. An unusually warm winter in Ontario's north has left the roads unstable and unsafe, and kept local road groomers out of work.

More supplies have to come by air, meaning higher costs for food, diesel fuel, medicines and bottled water in a community that has been under a drinking water advisory since 2001. To reduce demand for fuel, Deer Lake recently installed a 624-panel solar system to power the school. It helps, but doesn't address the isolation.

"It is a big concern, but what can we do? There's nothing we can do," said Meekis.

Deer Lake isn't alone. Ontario has roughly 3,100 kilometres of ice roads that keep 30 remote First Nation communities connected to the rest of the province.

"There's something definitely wrong in the North," said Isadore Day, Ontario's regional chief for the Assembly of First Nations.

In an interview, Day said he suspects that despair over climate change — its impact on roads, infrastructure, hunting traditions and the surrounding environment — is contributing to mental health and social problems in aboriginal communities.

He has called on the province and federal government to conduct a major climate change impact study for the North.

"A study of this nature, if done, will have the added effect of short-circuiting the anxiety we have of being left out of this growing national discussion on climate change policy," said Day.

> **There's something definitely wrong in the North.**
> Regional chief Isadore Day

Ashlee Cunsolo Willox, an assistant professor of indigenous studies at Cape Breton University, said the connection between mental health and climate change in Canada's North is growing stronger.

"In Canada, we have this active fishing culture, active farming culture, and large Arctic indigenous groups who are on the front lines of climate change," she said, adding she was moved to tears from hearing their stories. "It's so hard to articulate how close they are to it and part of it — their breathing, their skin, their bones, their blood. So even subtle impacts on the environment can have major impacts on how they feel."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CONVICTIONS

Feds plan review of past cases of gay men

The federal government says it plans to review cases where gay men were convicted of charges of "gross indecency" and "buggery" before the late 1960s when Canada decriminalized homosexual acts between consenting adults.

Details about the review are expected to be released in the coming days.

A spokesman for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Sunday the review will determine if a pardon is warranted for any of the men who were convicted.

One of those men convicted under the old law was Everett Klippert, who was twice convicted under Canada's anti-homosexuality laws for consenting sexual acts in the 1960s.

Trudeau spokesman Cameron Ahmad said in a statement that Trudeau intends to recommend a pardon be granted posthumously to Klippert.

Canada's laws against homosexuality were changed in the '60s when Trudeau's father was in government. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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HUMAN RIGHTS

Chief calls for end to solitary confinement

The Ontario Human Rights Commission is calling for an end to the use of solitary confinement in provincial jails.

Chief Commissioner Renu Mandhane has asked the province to commit publicly to ending the practice and immediately restrict its use.

"We believe that it has a discriminatory and disproportionate impact on code-protected groups — namely, racialized individuals, people with mental health issues and women," said Mandhane, who joined the commission in November.

The recommendations, which the Star obtained ahead of their Monday release, came out of a request from the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services for the commission's participation in a sweeping review of segregation practices across the province announced last March.

Mandhane said the commission isn't naive to think an end to solitary can happen overnight, but said the ministry could minimize the impact of segregation by immediately implementing its recommendations.

The ministry has faced growing criticism over solitary confinement in Ontario jails, which comes amid mounting national and global concern about the mental health consequences of isolation. The review came after a string of Star stories that documented alleged human rights violations in provincial jails.

The recommendations include:

- Adjust staffing models, hiring and training to ensure staff with appropriate attitudes and behavioural skills are working with vulnerable prisoner populations.
- Continue to implement a landmark 2013 human rights settlement, which banned the use of segregation for prisoners with mental health disabilities.
- Make segregation placement decisions and health-care assessments subject to external and independent review and oversight.
- Ensure all prisoners and their legal representatives are given relevant information about and a genuine opportunity to challenge placement in segregation.
- Collect and analyze race-based and human rights-based data on the use of segregation, but more broadly on the progression of prisoners through the correctional system. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Canadians welcome 25,000th Syrian refugee

The 25,000th Syrian refugee landed in Canada Saturday night marking the end of the first phase of the Liberals' massive resettlement program. They were part of a plane load of refugees who touched down in Montreal. Of the 25,000 who have now arrived, more than half will have their costs covered by the government in their first year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RCMP spent $900K to nab B.C. terrorism suspects

The RCMP spent over $900,000 in overtime pay during a five-month undercover operation that led to the arrests of two terrorism suspects in B.C.

Documents obtained by The Canadian Press through a freedom-of-information request show the Mounties paid at least 200 people, mostly police, $911,090.54 for overtime work during the investigation Project Souvenir.

The operation led to the arrests of common-law spouses John Nuttall and Amanda Korody on July 1, 2013, who were found guilty last summer of plotting to blow up the B.C. legislature

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Clinton pulling ahead

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Hillary has edge on eve of Super Tuesday

Hillary Clinton resoundingly reclaimed her standing as the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination with a lopsided victory over Bernie Sanders in South Carolina, giving her momentum heading into the Super Tuesday contests in multiple states.

For Sanders, the roughly 50-point defeat crystallized his weakness with black voters, a crucial segment of the Democratic electorate. If he loses blacks by similar margins in the Southern states that vote Tuesday, Clinton would likely take a delegate lead too difficult for the Vermont senator to overcome.

Taken together, 865 Democratic delegates to the party's national nominating convention are up for grabs in the Super Tuesday contests in 11 states and American Samoa. Sanders aims to stay close to Clinton in the South while focusing most of his attention on states in the Midwest and Northeast, including his home state of Vermont.

As Clinton relished the most sweeping victory of her political career, her focus was already on Super Tuesday — and the general election.

"Despite what you hear, we don't need to make America great again," Clinton said at a rally Saturday night, alluding to Republican front-runner Donald Trump and his campaign slogan. "America has never stopped being great," Clinton declared.

> **America has never stopped being great.**
> Hillary Clinton

Sanders acknowledged getting "decimated" in South Carolina, but said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press" that his campaign is "looking to the future, not looking back" as the contests move outside the South.

For Clinton, South Carolina was a moment to wipe away bitter memories of her loss to Barack Obama there eight years ago.

Hillary Clinton takes the lead in South Carolina. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

She won the support of nearly nine in 10 black voters, crucial Democratic backers who had abandoned her for Obama in 2008.

Clinton has a substantial lead among superdelegates, the Democratic Party leaders who can vote for the candidate of their choice at this summer's national convention, regardless of how their states vote. It takes 2,383 delegates to win the nomination.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Gas explosions at mine kill 36 people in Russia

A methane gas leak at a coal mine in Russia's far north triggered three explosions that ignited fires and partially collapsed the mine, killing 36 people, officials said Sunday.

The dead included five rescue workers and a mine worker who were killed early Sunday when the third explosion rocked the Severnaya mine in Vorkuta, a town north of the Arctic Circle in the Komi region, the emergency services said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Algerian jailed for possible link to Paris terror attacks

An Algerian citizen has been jailed for possible links to the suspected ringleader of the Paris attacks, Abdelhamid Abaaoud.

A court in Algeria's Bejaia province said the man, who lives in Belgium, was jailed Tuesday in the northern Algerian town Akbou.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CALIFORNIA

KKK rally turns violent as protesters, members clash

A stabbing victim receives first aid from an Anaheim Police Officer, at Pearson Park in Anaheim on Saturday.
OC WEEKLY VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dozens of protesters who heard about a planned Ku Klux Klan rally were waiting by a Southern California park when six Klansmen pulled up in a black SUV and took out signs reading "White Lives Matter." The KKK members were dressed in black shirts decorated with the Klan cross and Confederate flag patches.

The protesters immediately moved in, surrounding the Klansmen. Someone smashed the SUV's window, and then mayhem ensued.

Witness video captured the brawl just after noon Saturday in an Anaheim park about 3 miles from Disneyland. Several protesters could be seen kicking a KKK member. One Klansman with an American flag used the pole's tip to stab a man.

"I got stabbed," the man screamed, lifting his T-shirt to show a wound to his stomach. A fire hydrant where the man briefly sat was covered in blood.

By the time ordered was restored, three people had been stabbed, one critically. Five Klansmen were booked for investigation of assault with a deadly weapon, and seven of the approximately 30 counter-protesters were arrested on suspicion of assault with force likely to cause great bodily injury.

"I thought they were going to stomp these Klansmen to death," said Brian Levin, who directs California State University, San Bernardino's Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism. Levin, who was monitoring the protest, said he tried to intervene when "all hell broke loose," using his body to get between counter-protesters and Klansmen until officers were able to reach the scene.

Levin said he saw no officers when the melee started. Sgt. Daron Wyatt says police were there and engaged with people at one end of the fight, and called for additional resources..

Police Chief Raul Quezada said his officers were able to respond quickly enough to arrest all but one of the main participants, with the exception of one counter-protester who was still at large Sunday. Four of the arrestees were released after a review of video evidence, he said Sunday in a statement from the city.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cineplex stepping into eSports field

VIDEO GAMING

Theatre chain invests $15M in fast-growing pastime

It's a classic sporting narrative: The plucky underdog takes on an established player while spectators squeal and grunt after a good shot or near miss.

But in this case, whenever the competitors get one-upped they respawn.

Welcome to eSports, where both underdog and veteran are teenage boys going toe-to-toe — or more accurately controller-to-controller — in Cineplex's first national video game tournament.

The game of choice is a one-on-one version of Call of Duty: Black Ops 3, a first-person shooter in which players aim down the barrel of their guns to find and kill enemy combatants.

The winner of the regional contest becomes Toronto's representative in the national championship on March 6, the winner of which will take home $20,000.

Cineplex has invested $15 million US in WorldGaming, through which it will run house leagues, rent out playing time at theatres and host local and national tournaments.

It plans to hold national championships on the scale of the inaugural Call of Duty tournament on a quarterly basis.

The movie theatre in downtown Toronto was only half full of challengers and spectators — a far cry from the arena-sized crowds eSports draws in Asia, with its multimillion-dollar prizes and viewership second only to the Super Bowl.

But the movie theatre event is progress for a country that is still considered a noob in the eSports world.

The Canadian theatre chain is one of a growing number of companies looking to stake an early claim into eSports, a pastime that could soon eclipse going to the movies among millennials. Some projections estimate the eSports market could grow to $2 billion US by 2018.

Deloitte's annual technology trend forecast said the potential business value of eSports "is clearly too significant to ignore." It estimated global eSports revenue this year will be $500 million (U.S.), up 25 per cent from 2014, with revenues growing faster than traditional sports, though still just a fraction of what they pull in.

ESports presents opportunities for corporate brands trying to reach a younger generation, said Rob Segal, CEO of WorldGaming. "It plays like sports, which a lot of these brands are used to, especially a lot of the teen brands."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

THE NUMBERS

$18.4 million US — biggest overall prize giveaway in eSports history was doled out at The International DOTA 2 2015 championships.

$6.6 million US — first place team take-home from DOTA 2 championship

5th — Canadian players' ranking in total money earned in tournaments

$500 million US — Global revenues expected to be generated by eSports in 2016, up 25 per cent from 2015

Chris Loranger a.k.a. "Huk" is a Canadian professional gamer. His game of choice is PC-based Starcraft 2. CONTRIBUTED

DUTY-FREE EXEMPTION

Gap with U.S. 40 times wider

Americans are now allowed to spend more than 40 times as much as their northern neighbours without paying duty on products shipped from abroad, as a result of a new law.

Last week, U.S. President Barack Obama signed a bill vastly expanding the duty-free exemption for products imported by mail. The new $800 US limit quadruples the previous amount, which was already multiple times higher than Canada's $20 exemption.

There's pressure on the Canadian government in the runup to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's trip to Washington to narrow that gap.

One business group has even sought to enlist Canadian customers by circulating an online petition asking people to add their names if they want to stop paying what it calls an unfair duty. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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10:00AM: Saturday, February 27 (L3-13)
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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Monday, February 29, 2016

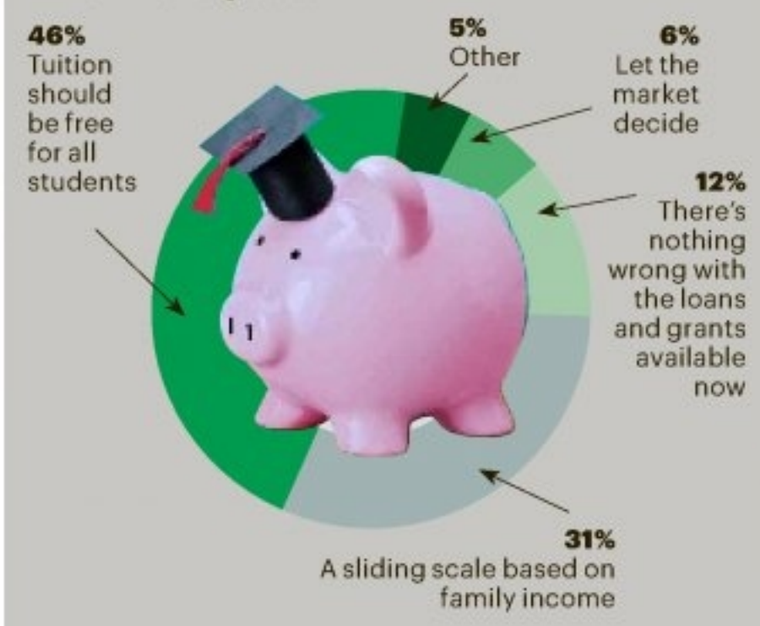
Metro POLL

Should tuition be free?

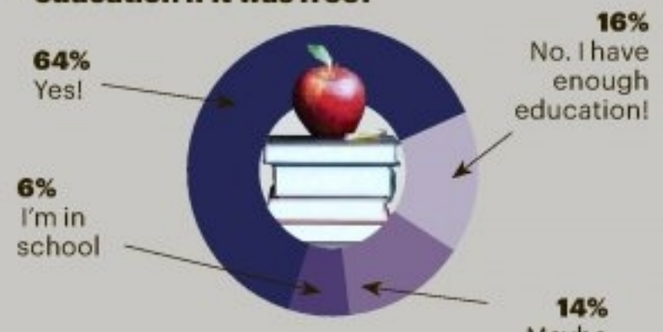
Visit metronews.ca **to have your say.**

Ontario announced last week that it will hand over significantly more grant and loan money to college and university — essentially making tuition free for families who make less than $50,000. We asked our readers from across the country if school should be free, or if there's a good reason for sky-high tuition fees.

1 How should we decide how much college and university cost?



2 Would you go back to post-secondary education if it was free?



3 If you think tuition should be free below a certain family income, what should the income be?

33% Less than $50K
22% Less than $100K
9% Less than $20K
8% Less than $250K
25% I don't agree with that
3% Other

I'd love it to be free, but we already can't pay for quality education in public K-12.

Everybody should have the right to an affordable education.

Tuition should be a sliding scale based on prior marks and income.

If the government thinks education is expensive, it should try ignorance.

WE ASKED Metro readers

UP Express threatens public trust in transit

TORY'S TORONTO
Matt Elliott

Here's a short list of things that happened shortly after provincial transit agency Metrolinx announced that — whoops, our bad — the fare price of their Union-Pearson Express rail line was set too high.

First, the union representing TTC workers called for a public inquiry into Metrolinx, suggesting the mea culpa on the airport line was proof the agency can't manage projects. Union head Bob Kinnear, who has long opposed Metrolinx's plans to design, build and potentially operate new transit lines through public-private partnerships, called the experience a "fiasco."

All groups can now point to the airport line and say: 'Look, ridership projections and business cases can be wrong.'

Second, Options for Davenport, a community group fighting tooth and nail against a plan to build a rail overpass through their neighbourhood, put out a release claiming botched UP Express ridership estimates raised "red flags" about Metrolinx's work in their community.

Third, Peter Shawn Taylor, an LRT opponent from all the way down in Kitchener-Waterloo, penned an op-ed for the Waterloo Region Record, directly conflating the UP Express with the LRT planned for his neck of the woods.

"Like the Union Pearson Express, our LRT was a political pipe dream made in the absence of a strong business case," he wrote.

Expect a whole lot more of this.

Because more than just offering a ride to the airport, the real legacy of the UP Express project will be to provide cover to any concerned community member, angry crank, NIMBYer or road warrior who wants to stand up at a community meeting and oppose a transit project.

It won't matter why. The logic will be the same for those who have reasonable concerns and for those who just think public transit is for losers. All groups can now point to the experience with the airport line and say: "Look, ridership projections and business cases can be wrong."

And not just a little wrong, either. The UP Express was supposed to carry 5,000 riders a day by June 2016. Actual ridership as of December was less than half that.

For transit advocates — and I am one — this is alarming. The provincial budget released last week reiterates that Queen's Park plans to invest about $15 billion in transit projects in and around Toronto. Metrolinx will be responsible for spending that money on a variety of projects that will be supported, like the UP Express and its original fares, by mountains of detailed reports.

That kind of evidence is critical to ensuring the GTA gets a well-used transit system. But evidence requires openness, transparency and accuracy.

Most critically, it requires public trust. Metrolinx may have finally given Toronto an affordable train ride to the airport, but I fear they've lost what matters most.

Matt Elliott lives and writes in Toronto. Follow him on Twitter @GraphicMatt

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Presidential hopefuls could take some style tips from the Oscars

The Oscars came and went, and once again, it doesn't matter if you were busy tweezing your bikini line. Any personal grooming, really, is more satisfying than the Academy Awards.

The highlights were, as usual, already sliced and diced into an easily digestible breakfast this morning. In fact, the evening's growing irrelevance, heightened by its confounding whiteness and only slightly mitigated by host Chris Rock, is redeemed by just one thing: the fashion!

The Oscars have the exact opposite problem of the U.S. election — which is long on bombast, scandal, juice, jowls and most of all: consequence. What it does not have, not even a little bit, is style.

Bernie Sanders has a Michael Moorian compulsion to look unkempt. Hillary Clinton knows no shape but rectangle. Tangerine-tinged Donald Trump daringly wore a purple tie once, and he looked like a TV used-car salesman. Marco Rubio paired so-called "Cuban heels" (akin to cowboy boots) with his "dad's hand-me-downs" esthetic and the media had a field day. Ted Cruz, who's been accused of mistaking a Snuggie for a trench coat, doesn't appear to know that, whatever his political aspirations, he's too small to shop at Destination XL.

This election has been galling, frustrating, vicious, compelling. Its drama can only be perfected in the wardrobe department, by any one of last night's standout hits or a memorable look from past. Picture Sanders in Angelina Jolie's leg-baring 2012 Atelier Versace number, which he wouldn't shrink from: He's got no establishment ties to hide.

Clinton could prove her humanity to those doubting it by finally showing some skin, à la Lupita Nyong'o and her 2014 pale blue Prada gown.

Trump, whose political moral compass points in Hugh Hefner's general direction, could take the playboy look and steal David Oyelowo's burgundy Dolce and Gabbana tux (preferably in velvet).

Some analysts put Rubio and Cruz neck-and-neck for disfavour among the much-courted Hispanic vote. Perhaps Rubio could gain traction with J.Lo fans, at least, by mimicking her barely-there 2015 Elie Saab Couture look (it matches his barely-there support for immigrants rights).

And Cruz, the ultimate right-wing snake, might feel quite at home in Marion Cotillard's 2008 Jean Paul Gaultier scale-covered dress. It's white, an effective colour to don for battling Trump to be the evangelical's political savior.

One might argue these vying commanders-in-chief are already the hardest working actors around, so why not class it up — if only sartorially.

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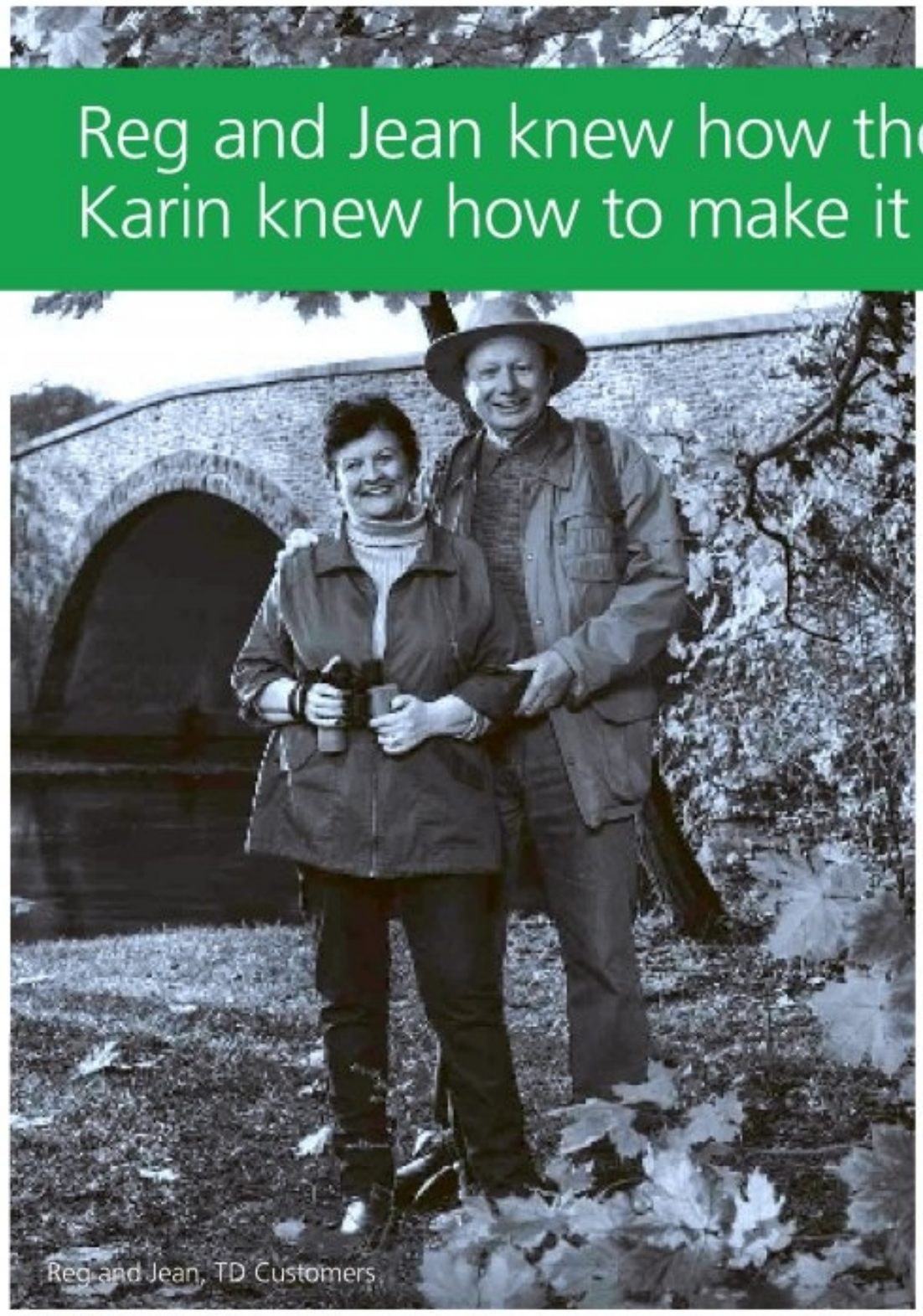

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Six ways to deal with debt

NEST EGG

Manage your money so you can start saving again

Michelle Williams

Debt management involves examining your spending habits and making necessary changes. ISTOCK

If you're like many Canadians, your current financial strategy is less about funding your future retirement and more about dealing with debt. Even if you're earning a good living, fiscal challenges like interminable student loans, mounting credit-card bills and massive mortgage payments can take a huge chunk of your earnings. But there are ways to manage your money that help you pay down debt while putting you on the path to saving:

1. Define your long-term goals

"Basically, it's starting at the ending point," says Kurt Rosentreter, a senior financial advisor at Manulife Securities and chartered accountant in Toronto. "Likely, your goals include paying off your debt, accumulating enough wealth to retire on and perhaps helping your kids toward financial independence. By defining those goals, you have a focus, something you should never lose track of."

Rosentreter suggests going back every few years to track how you're doing at meeting your long-term goals.

2. Examine your spending

"Go back a year and look at your bank and credit-card statements to determine where your money is going," Rosentreter says. "On a spreadsheet, group your expenses into categories."

He recommends four groupings: essential costs (such as food, shelter, utilities), variable costs (things you need but could spend less on or put off to later), discretionary costs (restaurant meals, vacations, entertainment) and luxury costs (indulgent items, such as expensive clothing, high-priced cars, etc.).

3. Change the way you spend

Tracking how you spend can be enlightening and helpful in starting you on the road to changing your money habits.

"The biggest impediment to paying debt is your spending behaviour. Many of the expenses in the first two groups are difficult to eliminate, but you can certainly change the way you spend in groups three and four, the discretionary areas."

4. Don't ignore the small stuff

It's not just the big-ticket items that contribute to debt load. When scanning your credit-card statements, it may be surprising how many of the credit charges are incidental.

"Fewer movies, fewer lattes, fewer lunches out. Skipping all these little treats will add up big over time."

5. Pay off the high-interest debt first

"Credit-card interest is usually high. Your first priority should be to pay down the debt that has the highest rate of interest."

You may wish to move some or all of your credit-card debt to a line of credit or some other lower-interest vehicle to save on interest while you're working down your debt.

6. If necessary, make big changes

If you still can't chip away at your debt, maybe you need bigger changes to your lifestyle. Examine things like your home (is it too much house for you to carry?), the food you buy (can you shop at a less expensive store?) or the way you get around (do you really need a car?) Following this plan will help you save, but how much — and over how long?

"It's difficult to put an amount or time frame around debt repayment, but you should have a debt-free date as part of your goal planning. It will be much more difficult for a lower-income earner to save large amounts of money over smaller periods of time than someone who has more disposable income," says Rosentreter.

Set reasonable timelines and realistic amounts so you can maximize your chances of success. Look online for a debt repayment calculator tool or seek the advice of a financial expert to help you set reasonable goals you can manage.

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Your essential daily news

Washington state authorities investigating after Salma Hayek's dog found dead

Chris Rock takes aim at Academy

THE OSCARS

Host makes fun of casting clichés and racism in Hollywood

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood

All eyes were on Hollywood Sunday night for the 88th annual Academy Awards, where there were very few sure things. Most of the assembled Hollywood elite were on the edges of their seats about how host Chris Rock would address the elephant in the room — the lack of racial diversity in the nominees and the resulting #OscarsSoWhite controversy. And he didn't leave them wondering for long, calling the Oscars, "the White People's Choice Awards" before moving on to mock those calling for a boycott.

"Jada boycotting the Oscars is like me boycotting Rihanna's panties. I wasn't invited," he said.

He also risked crossing a line or two with some eyebrow-raising lines:

"We were too busy being raped and lynched to care about who won best cinematographer" he said of African-Americans during the 1960s. "This year, in the In Memoriam package, it's just going to be black people that were shot by the cops on the way to the movies."

After more than nine minutes on the subject, Rock insisted, "Everything's not about race," and then tossed in one joke about women getting more style questions about their attire than men. But with each subsequent appearance on stage, it became clear Rock was not going to let the issue go.

Rock did win back some goodwill later, though, by bringing out a fleet of Girl Scouts to sell cookies to the assembled celebrities and moguls, one-upping Ellen DeGeneres' pizza delivery bit from when she last hosted.

As for the awards themselves, it was an evening of some surprises and upsets. Bridge of Spies co-star Mark Rylance snatched best supporting actor from the favored nominee, Creed star Sylvester Stallone. Best supporting actress — another one of the harder-to-predict races of the night — went to Alicia Vikander for her work in The Danish Girl, her first nomination and win, before Mad Max: Fury Road started an apparent sweep, taking home best editing, best costume design, best sound editing, best sound mixing, best production design and best makeup and hairstyling.

Mad Max: Fury Road didn't win in every category, though, with Emmanuel Lubezki winning best cinematography award for The Revenant, making him the first cinematographer in history to win the award three years in a row. He previously won for Birdman and Gravity. And best visual effects went to the team from the indie sci-fi drama Ex Machina.

In the writing categories, Tom McCarthy's Spotlight won for best original screenplay, while best adapted screenplay went to another best picture contender, The Big Short. Director and co-writer Adam McKay used his speech to address U.S. politics: "If you don't want big money to control government, don't vote for candidates that take money from big companies or weird billionaires," he said.

Pakistani-Canadian filmmaker Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy for best short documentary A Girl in the River: The Price of Forgiveness — her second career Oscar.

MORE ONLINE
visit metronews.ca for full list of winners

Chris Rock wasn't afraid to tackle the #OscarsSoWhite controversy at the Academy Awards Sunday night. GETTY IMAGES

HOLLYWOOD GLAM
TASSELS, TRAINS & POPS OF GOLD

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

The force was with her
Rooney Mara's ivory Givenchy gown and tightly-wound hair had Twitter users drawing comparisons to Daisy Ridley's Rey in Star Wars: The Force Awakens.

Gorgeous in green
As a concept, "seafoam green mermaid dress" sounds too wacky for Cate Blanchett. But seeing it on the actress, who starred in Carol, this feathered Armani Privé with hand-sewn Swarovski crystals is as romantic as the ocean.

Ready to pop
Chrissy Teigen's belly may have popped a few beads — the pregnant Sports Illustrated model Instagrammed a photo of seamstresses going to work on her stunning nude and maroon Marchesa gown just a couple hours before Sunday night's ceremony.

All aboard the Oscar train
Rachel McAdams transformed from dowdy Boston Globe reporter in Spotlight to red-carpet stunner in this August Getty Atelier gown with a train that flowed forever.

Shining bright
Margot Robbie, who starred in The Big Short, was the red carpet's golden girl in a shimmering plunge-neck Diane Von Furstenberg gown and small black clutch trailing an ankle-grazing tassel.

Fifty Shades of Grey wins big at Razzies

WORST IN SHOW

Erotic drama finally gets recognition it deserves?

Fifty Shades of Grey came out on top — or perhaps the bottom — at this year's Razzies.

The awkward adaptation of author EL James' erotic novel nabbed five prizes at Saturday's Golden Raspberry Awards, including tying it up with superhero flop Fantastic Four as the year's worst film.

Fifty Shades of Grey also "won" for worst screenplay, worst actor for Jamie Dornan and worst actress for Dakota Johnson, with the pair pinning down the worst screen combo award.

In addition to tying for worst film of the year, Fantastic Four was also lambasted as worst remake, rip-off or sequel and earned the worst director prize for Josh Trank.

Other dishonours included Kaley Cuoco as worst supporting actress for Alvin & The Chipmunks: Road Chip and Eddie Redmayne as worst supporting actor for Jupiter Ascending. Redmayne won the best actor trophy at last year's Academy Awards for portraying Stephen Hawking in The Theory of Everything.

Sylvester Stallone, who is nominated in the supporting actor category at the Oscars for reprising his role as Rocky Balboa in Creed, was bestowed with the Razzies' redeemer award, which lauds past Razzies recipients for recent work that's revived their careers.

The winners of the 36th annual Razzies were announced Saturday at the Palace Theatre in downtown Los Angeles, across town from the Dolby Theater where the 88th annual Academy Awards will be presented Sunday.

The Razzies, which were launched in 1980 as a spoof of Hollywood's awards season, were selected this year by 943 voting members from 48 U.S. states and 20 foreign countries. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RAZZIES

Background on the award: "The $4.97 gold spray-painted Razzie Award is handed out to otherwise great talent who should know better than to associate their name with sub-par projects," the awards show says on its Twitter bio.

All but one of the Razzie categories are chosen by members of the Golden Raspberry Award Foundation, who earn voting rights by paying a $40 membership fee, with a $25 annual renewal.

Nominees very rarely attend the Razzies. Sandra Bullock turned up to accept worst actress in 2010 for All About Steve, a day before winning best actress Oscar for The Blind Side. AFP

Johnson and Dornan each won worst acting awards as well as worst screen combo. HANDOUT

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A NEW WAY TO NETWORK

Sweatwork blends fitness with business

Women do upward dog at a black light yoga class during a "sweatworking" event for women. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In a hot yoga studio, around 40 women are breaking a sweat — their neon sports bras and tank tops glowing in a dark room lit with black lights — while a DJ with an itty-bitty man bun spins dance beats.

"Are you feeling good?" instructor Megan Leach shouts, as attendees shake their booties while bent over in a downward-facing dog pose.

The ladies in this Wednesday night yoga class at the Yonge St. location of Hard Candy Fitness — part of the glam fitness chain co-founded by Madonna — are here to get fit. But they're also here to make new business connections and meet like-minded people. Events like this are known as "sweatworking" — a concept that's been gaining traction across North America in recent years.

Barry's Bootcamp, a New York fitness studio, welcomes sweatworking clients on a daily basis, according to the New York Daily News. And in Chicago, local fitness centre A Sweat Life began offering sweatworking events back in 2014. Closer to home, the Social Sweatwork is a Toronto group facilitating co-ed sweatworking sessions — and the events always "sell out."

> **Once you do something physical with someone ... it helps you connect with people.**
> Megan Leach, yoga instructor

Hosted by the new Toronto-based organization Smart Girls Sweat, the recent yoga night, which was followed by a guest speaker and mingling session, is the latest way professionals are combining their loves of fitness and networking. Celine Tarrant, an associate category manager for Walmart Canada, launched the group last fall. Networking is often difficult and inauthentic, she says, plus it's tough to balance alongside personal fitness and a social life. With that in mind, she decided to develop an environment where people can have "authentic conversations."

"Once you've done downward dog beside someone else, there's no way you won't have a great conversation after that," she says.

Leach says the marriage between networking and working out makes sense because it creates an automatic connection. "Once you do something physical with someone, like dance or exchange energy, it helps you connect with people," she explains. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

If shopping defines your life, it's time to quit stores

MAKING CHOICES

Turn mindless buying into meaningful achievement

Gail Vaz-Oxlade
For Metro Canada

Splurging at the mall provides much less satisfaction than saving to reach a specific goal. ISTOCK

Clothes and jewelry are wonderful treats, but they won't put a roof over your head or food in your stomach. And they aren't worth much to anyone else after you've owned them.

Money in the bank means you have options. If you lose your job or get sick or have to help a family member, having money means you have choices. The clothes and jewelry won't be so shiny if you're trying to find a way to pay the rent.

While loads of people like to haul out the word "addict" to justify their rabid shopping behaviour, most people aren't "addicted" to shopping. Shopping addicts are a very small percentage. Only about just six per cent of the population suffer from compulsive-buying disorder. The rest of the claims come from people who like to shop. It makes them feel good. It makes their brains produce chemicals that make them happy. And they may have impulse control problems. But it isn't an addiction.

If you're an over-shopper, job one is to stay out of the stores. Turn off the house or style porn on your television set. Shopping doesn't solve any problems. As soon as you get that fab handbag, those snazzy new shoes, that fantastic new dining room table, it feels less important — even worthless — because you want something newer and snazzier. Having a meaningful life, a happy life that contributes, is the answer.

Find something that's really important to you: Set a goal. The idea is to transfer your shopping energy and the money you would have spent from something that offers no long-term value to something that you truly want to achieve.

Make sure that goal you're trying to achieve is realistic. If you're hankering over what looks like the picture-perfect lives of the stars you admired, how are you going to do that on your income? If you always seem to want what someone else has, that may not only be putting a huge strain on your relationships, but killing your wallet as well.

$ KNOW BETTER

Things money can't buy...

- If you're shopping to keep your friends, find new friends.
- If you're shopping to salve your broken heart, buy a book or go to the gym.
- If you're shopping because you think your stuff says something about you, know that your actions say more.

If you think that your dreams were more important than everyone else's reality give your head a shake. Using your parents, mates, or friends to get what you want is going to leave them with a horrible taste in their mouths. Just because you can successfully talk the people who love you into taking care of you doesn't mean you should.

Have some self-respect. In the end if you can't take care of yourself, what's the point?

For the hard-core shopping addict, intervention is often necessary. Just as with alcohol or drug addition, a professional needs to help redirect addictive behaviour. For the rest, family and friends — the peer group — need to tell their shopping-crazed friend that their behaviour isn't good for them or their friendship.

For more money advice, visit Gail's website at gailvazoxlade.com

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HARD AT WORK

Obama delivers the scoop on his first job

President Barack Obama says his unglamorous first job scooping ice cream taught him valuable lessons about responsibility and hard work.

He wants the same experience for other teenagers, particularly those without resources, and is launching a summer opportunities project to help young people land a first job that can teach them similar lessons and help send them down the right path.

Barack Obama. GETTY IMAGES

The private sector, all levels of government, community groups and schools have pledged to help teenagers get their first jobs this summer.

"Scooping ice cream is tougher than it looks," Obama said Thursday in an essay on the LinkedIn professional networking site. "Rows and rows of rock-hard ice cream can be brutal on the wrists. ... I was less interested in what the job meant for my future and more concerned about what it meant for my jump shot.

The job at a Baskin-Robbins in Honolulu "wasn't exactly glamorous, but it taught me some valuable lessons," Obama wrote. "Responsibility. Hard work. Balancing a job with friends, family and school."

As unglamorous as scooping ice cream was, Obama said it gave him a chance to contribute to his community.

"And while I may have lost my taste for ice cream after one too many free scoops, I'll never forget that job, or the people who gave me that opportunity, and how they helped me get to where I am today," he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Will Annick and Yolanda's financial goals be met? **Metro's finance guru Lesley-Anne Scorgie** has only a few weeks left to left to tackle the women's largest financial burdens and teach them to allocate resources.

Moving home to save a down payment

LESLEY-ANNE SCORGIE
metromoney

THE CHALLENGE: Two ambitious young women have taken on the task of working with financial guru Lesley-Anne Scorgie to makeover their finances in just 12 weeks. Yolanda, 27, in Mississauga, and Annick, 24, from Calgary, are making strides towards eliminating their debts and building savings for down payments and emergencies. Follow their progress #MetroMoneyMakeover @LesleyScorgie.

THIS WEEK: Who wants to move back home after launching from the nest? No one — unless you're Yolanda and saving for a down payment for a home in the GTA.

NEXT WEEK: The road to debt freedom is littered with surprises. Annick's 60/60/60 debt reduction plan ensures she'll reach her debt elimination goal quickly, but doesn't leave room in her budget for "what-if" expenses. We'll explore ways Annick can build emergency funds on her uber-tight budget.

LESLEY-ANNE SCORGIE IS A BESTSELLING AUTHOR AND FOUNDER OF MEVEST, A MONEY COACHING SERVICE FOR CANADIANS. FOLLOW HER @LESLEYSCORGIE

Yolanda is willing to move back in with her mother to increase her savings so she can buy a home of her own. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

THE SITUATION

Yolanda wants nothing more than to buy a condo and live wild and free in walls that she owns. No more landlords, noise notices (because of her puppy, of course), rent increases and lease agreements. But to get to home ownership, she needs to amp up her savings to $835 per month and curb her periodic impulse purchases. At this pace, she'll have $30,000 within three years ($25,000 for the down payment and $5,000 for closing costs).

Yolanda recently discovered the power of budgeting — lining up her income against her expenses. Unlike so many of us who run in the red, when we broke down the numbers, Yolanda actually had a surplus of $515 each month, with which she can save. But to make up the difference between what she needs to save ($835 per month), she's made the decision to pack up her tiny basement apartment and move back in with her mom this June. This action will save her $350 each month (reduced rent, no utility or grocery bills).

THE LESSON

Generally, if you want something badly, whether home ownership or money to pay for your wedding, you'll need to make sacrifices. Everything in our budget is a trade-off. So, if Yolanda spends more than she needs to on rent, she'll forgo money that could be used towards her down payment.

Certainly there will be drawbacks for Yolanda as she moves home — sharing a bathroom, lack of privacy, a longer commute (two versus one bus) and feeling the pressure of her mother's watchful eyes. But, these challenges can be managed through basic boundary setting and time management. For example, while commuting, Yolanda could use that time to update her budget, read up on current affairs and plan her next career move.

The benefits of her decision are unequivocal — hundreds of dollars saved every month, home cooking and extra care for her pooch, which will relieve Yolanda of the puppy-guilt she drags to work daily. For Yolanda, the pros of moving home far outweigh the cons.

BY THE NUMBERS

Yolanda's Net Worth

The Progress: By bringing Yolanda's financial goals into the forefront she's started taking her money seriously. Since we first sat down in December, Yolanda has improved her net worth by $1,500 through contributing to her RRSP, TFSA and pension and eliminating an annoying $300 MasterCard balance.

Assets	
TFSA	$500
RRSP	$900
Savings	$100
Pension	$4,300
Total Assets	**$5,800**
Liabilities	
VISA	$0
Master card	$0
Total Liabilities	**$0**
Net Worth	**$5,800**

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Imagine Dragons like you've never seen them

For this concert movie, which opens in theatres March 2, Imagine Dragons took footage from their show in Toronto. CONTRIBUTED

INTERVIEW

In making a concert movie, band looked at the Last Waltz

Steve Gow
For Metro Canada

They may be one of today's hottest musical acts but before Imagine Dragons even planned to film a grandiose concert movie, they looked back at a rustic, old classic — The Last Waltz, a cinematic account of aged rockers' The Band's final concert from 1976.

"That's the film that let me understand the tone of all those rock n' rollers the best — seeing them in their element up on stage performing," recalls Dragons drummer Daniel Platzman from New York. "That was something that was really important to me going into this — trying to capture that feeling of the authentic concert-going experience."

Fans can soak up that authentic experience on March 2, when theatres across Canada premiere Imagine Dragons: Smoke + Mirrors Live — a colossal concert movie that features the Las Vegas quartet playing their biggest hits. Making the movie even more unique, the global hitmakers decided to document their show in Canada — specifically, Toronto.

"Everytime we've come to Toronto we've been given an insane welcoming," insists the 29-year-old multi-platinum selling artist. "Even before we were able to play at the Air Canada Centre, we remember playing clubs and everyone's just had a great attitude. So when timing for the film came up, it was the obvious choice."

As the film showcases, there are 15,000 screaming fans in Toronto that adore Imagine Dragons as well. And while many acts might've settled for selling that showpiece on iTunes or other digital formats, Imagine Dragons felt it was crucial to get their show onto the big screen.

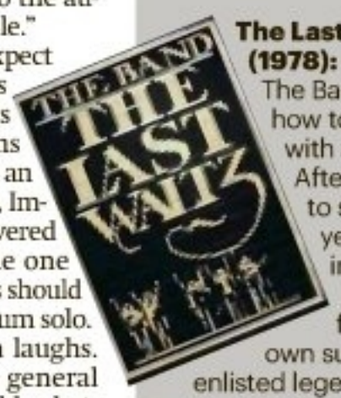
"It was entirely a cinematic event for all of us," says Platzman. "We really wanted to bring that live experience as authentically to people in a movie theatre as we could (and) we're always trying to stay as true to the authentic show as possible."

Music fans should expect their favourite songs — from the band's hits Radioactive and Demons to an inspired take on an old 1984 classic. In fact, Imagine Dragons have covered all the bases, even the one thing all concert movies should have — a bombastic drum solo.

"I agree," Platzman laughs. "More drum solos in general would make the world a better place."

MOVIES

Two other must-see concert movies



The Last Waltz (1978): The Band knew how to go out with a bang. After deciding to split up after years of backing up Bob Dylan and finding their own success, they enlisted legend Martin Scorsese to film their farewell concert.

Woodstock (1970): The official film of the iconic 1960's music festival, Woodstock features Joe Cocker, Jimi Hendrix and all the musical greats of the era playing to a big mud field full of naked flower children. Truly, a once-in-a-lifetime concert film experience.

STEVE GOW/METRO

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Vancouver native Gotham's bad girl

Jessica Lucas plays Tabitha Galavan in Batman prequel Gotham. HANDOUT

GOTHAM

Villainess talks love of the franchise and biggest fear

Holy hiatus, Batman! Three months after the last new episode aired, Gotham returns for the second half of the show's second season on Monday, on CTV and Fox. It's all part of the new network strategy of keeping viewers keen by splitting 22-episode orders into two uninterrupted runs.

To lure back the Bat-faithful, the series has embraced the dark side of the original DC Comics tales, with police detectives James Gordon (Ben McKenzie) and Harvey Bullock (Ottawa-native Donal Logue) trying to protect wealthy orphan Bruce Wayne (David Mazouz) from an ever-growing list of hoodlums-in-training. They include characters who will someday be known as the Penguin (Robin Lord Taylor), Catwoman (Camren Bicondova) and Mr. Freeze (Nathan Darrow).

One big-name cast addition this season has been Emmy-winner Michael Chiklis as police Capt. Nathaniel Barnes. In addition, the second-half of the season will see the return of Jada Pinkett Smith as Fish Mooney, a ruthless antagonist who seemingly fell to her death last season.

Add another Canadian to the mix: Vancouver-native Jessica Lucas as Tabitha Galavan, a sniper who's part of a family vendetta against Gotham City's ruling elite. The character is said to have Olympic-level athletic skills, especially as a hunter, tracker and marksman.

Lucas says she came by these naturally thanks to her sports-minded mom and dad. Growing up in Vancouver, they had her involved in soccer, track and softball.

"I was always on a baseball diamond or watching my dad play rugby," she says.

The 30-year-old began acting at an early age. At 13, she got an agent and — on her third audition — landed a part on the YTV series 2030 CE.

Her next series was Edgemont, a Vancouver teen drama where more future Canadian stars emerged, including Kristin Kreuk (Smallville, Beauty and the Beast) and Grace Park (Hawaii Five-0).

Another Canadian, Missy Peregrym (Rookie Blue) joined her on the short-lived U.S. series Life as We Know It, which also featured Kelly Osbourne and Sean Faris.

Roles in 90210, the reboot of Melrose Place and Gracepoint followed. Why, does she think, so many young Canadians land jobs on American TV shows?

She feels Canadians bring "a sense of reality and a groundedness that comes through in our performances."

That would seem to be an asset on Gotham, where reality and danger seem more present than in most comic book fantasy shows.

"It's a world so huge and larger than life and fantastical," says Lucas. She says she "grew up on Batman and I've always been a huge fan, so it's a dream come true."

Lucas says when she was a child, her daycare used to play reruns from the original TV Batman series from the '60s.

"I remember Batman from the 'Pow,'" she says.

She later enjoyed the Tim Burton movies and runs down the names of the actors who played Batman on screen. "I remember all of them."

She was into the villains, too, especially Michelle Pfeiffer's turn as Catwoman in 1992's Batman Returns.

"She's just the ultimate combination of sexy and badass."

If Lucas could have one super power, it would be flying — something that scares her in real life. That would seem to be kryptonite for a jet-setting actress, but not for Lucas.

"It's like any other fear in life," she says. "You have to do it and conquer your fear. I just pretend that I'm not afraid and do it anyway." THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **I loved the sense of responsibility, I loved getting to act, I had a job, I was making money — I fell in love with it and I didn't look back.**
> Jessica Lucas, actor

JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

Tender moments reveal star's maturity

THE SHOW: Girls, Season 5, Episode 2 (HBO)
THE MOMENT: The Hug

Lena Dunham's character is finally growing up. CONTRIBUTED

Hannah (Lena Dunham) knocks on an apartment door. A meek looking man, Keith, answers. Hannah doesn't want to look at him — her father Tad (Peter Scolari) met him online, flew to New York to hook up with him, and left his wallet behind. Hannah just wants to retrieve it and run.

But when Keith tells her he friended Tad on Facebook, and she spies his tiny, bug-eyed dog, she softens.

"You seem like a nice man," she says. "And your dog looks like a toy. You should consider putting her in catalogues."

To Keith's surprise, she hugs him goodbye.

With that hug, Hannah enters adulthood. The previous scene, where Tad describes his hookup to her, is a quiet comic masterpiece of awkwardness (check out Dunham's face as Scolari says, "He didn't look anything like his internet photo.")

The hug, however, squares Hannah's shoulders. By the next scene, when Tad admits, shakily, "I don't know what to do," Hannah finally does. Misery fills her face, but she says the right thing: "That's okay. I'm here."

Watching Hannah, Marnie (Allison Williams), Jessa (Jemima Kirke) and Shoshanna (Zosia Mamet) flail into maturity has been one of television's great bildungsromans. They've been provocative, impulsive, unkind, unmoored. But Dunham turns 30 this year, and she and HBO decided next season will be Girls' last. So there are signs the four are finding themselves. (Episode 3, featuring Shoshanna in Japan, is a stunner.)

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

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metro SPORTS

Despite fracturing her left knee the day before, Lindsey Vonn competed Sunday and placed 13th in a World Cup Alpine combined event

Healthy ace in the hole

Marcus Stroman went 4-0 with a 1.67 ERA in four regular-season starts last season. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MLB

A year after ACL injury, Stroman ready to lead rotation

Marcus Stroman is feeling better than ever.

With the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee fully healed for nearly a year, the Toronto Blue Jays pitcher has set high expectations for himself going into the new season.

Stroman doesn't want to merely be a part of a rotation helping Toronto defend its first AL East title in 22 years — he's determined to lead it.

"I want to be that guy," the hard-throwing righty said. "That's why I put in all that work in the off-season. Everything I did was to be the ace and, hopefully, I have that opportunity to be the ace and I can kind of run with it."

With former ace and 2012 AL Cy Young winner David Price's off-season departure to the Red Sox, the chances are good for Stroman to fill the void.

Despite missing the first five months last season after injuring his knee in a freak accident during fielding practice in March, Stroman returned for four starts in September, going 4-0 with a 1.67 ERA.

Stroman also started Toronto's memorable come-from-behind triumph over Texas in the deciding Game 5 of the AL Division Series, then earned the win in Game 3 against Kansas City in the AL Championship Series.

Even when Stroman wasn't able to walk, the 24-year-old said, he still maintained a consistent throwing schedule throughout the rehabilitation process. He worked with trainers during the summer at Duke University, where he was drafted 22nd overall by Toronto as a junior in 2012, and completed coursework to finish his degree in sociology.

"My body is in the best position that it's ever been," Stroman said.

"I'm excited, man. It's going to be hard for this next month, because I'm kind of itching to get at the bit, being that I didn't play all last year."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BULLPEN

Depth added to relief corps

The Blue Jays added more depth to their pitching staff Sunday, signing veteran right-hander Rafael Soriano to a minor-league contract with an invite to spring training.

Soriano posted a league-best 45 saves for the Tampa Bay Rays in 2010. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA

Lowry-less Raps run down in Motown

A lot has changed in the past week for the Detroit Pistons.

Andre Drummond had 15 points and 18 rebounds, and Detroit took advantage of Kyle Lowry's absence to beat the Toronto Raptors 114-101 on Sunday night. It was the fourth straight victory for the Pistons, who had lost five in a row before this run.

"Young, dumb and we don't know any better," Detroit guard Reggie Jackson said. "That's who we are. We just continue to fight and continue to battle. We come out and try to be the best versions of ourselves."

A week ago, the Pistons were reeling after allowing 59 points to New Orleans star Anthony Davis on Feb. 21 in what was Detroit's fifth straight loss. Now the Pistons (31-29) are in a virtual tie with Charlotte (30-28) and Chicago (30-28) for seventh place in the Eastern Conference.

Lowry sat out for the first time all season because the Raptors wanted to rest him after a 43-point performance against Cleveland on Friday. Toronto had its four-game winning streak snapped.

Raptors guard Delon Wright attempts a layup against the Pistons' Joel Anthony on Sunday in Auburn Hills, Mich. ALLEN EINSTEIN/ NBAE VIA GETTY IMAGES

"To be a good team in this league, you have to be able to handle success, and we just embarrassed ourselves trying to do that," Raptors coach Dwane Casey said. "We didn't come out with any defensive disposition. That has nothing to do with Kyle. He doesn't change anyone's defensive focus."

The score was tied at 52 at halftime before the Pistons broke it open with a 37-point third quarter. All five Detroit starters scored in double figures in the game.

Terrence Ross scored 27 points for the Raptors.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SUNDAY At Detroit

114	101
PISTONS	RAPTORS

The Raptors are two games back of the Eastern Conference-leading Cavaliers who lost 113-99 to the Washington Wizards on Sunday in D.C.

Vegas trip puts Tulo at ease as a Blue Jay

Troy Tulowitzki finally feels like himself when he puts on a Toronto Blue Jays jersey. All it took was a playoff run and some off-season bonding with his teammates.

The all-star shortstop, who came to Toronto in a trade deadline deal with the Colorado Rockies last July, is participating in his first spring training with the team.

While it took Tulowitzki time to adjust to life outside Colorado — he spent his entire career with the Rockies before the trade — there's no doubt in his mind that he belongs with the defending American League East champion Blue Jays now.

Troy Tulowitzki THE CANADIAN PRESS

"You can't go to the playoffs with a team and not feel like you're a part of it, but for it to actually all sink in and digest, and for me to really be OK with it, that wasn't until this off-season," Tulowitzki said at Florida Auto Exchange Stadium on Sunday morning.

"When I see the Blue Jays logo I'm not like 'what is that?' any more. I know that this is where I belong and I'm looking forward to this year."

Tulowitzki and seven of his teammates, including second baseman Ryan Goins, third baseman Josh Donaldson, and right-hander Marcus Stroman, met up in Las Vegas in December to watch UFC 194 headlined by Conor McGregor and Jose Aldo.

The fight itself didn't last long — McGregor knocked Aldo out 13 seconds into the first round — but the experience went a long way in cementing Tulowitzki's bond with the others.

"I felt like we became closer this off-season, and that made the transition a lot easier," Tulowitzki said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL IN BRIEF

New-look Blackhawks top league's best in Capitals

Jonathan Toews, Patrick Kane and Dennis Rasmussen scored, and the new-look Chicago Blackhawks beat the NHL-leading Washington Capitals 3-2 on Sunday.

Corey Crawford made 28 saves as the Blackhawks won for only the third time in their last eight games. Andrew Ladd got an assist in his return to Chicago after he was reacquired in a trade with Winnipeg on Thursday night.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Staal joins Rangers' Cup run

Eric Staal will be no longer be the face of the Carolina Hurricanes franchise after the team traded its captain to the New York Rangers on Sunday.

In exchange for Staal, the Hurricanes acquired centre Aleksi Saarela and New York's second-round selections in each of the next two drafts.

Staal had spent his entire 12-year career with the Hurricanes and is eligible to become an unrestricted free agent this summer.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

City new League Cup champs

IN BRIEF

Kingsbury captures 32nd title at FIS World Cup

Mikael Kingsbury captured his 32nd FIS World Cup title Sunday, winning the dual moguls event on a three-medal day for Canada.

The 23-year-old freestyle skier from Deux-Montagnes, Que., defeated American Thomas Rowley 20-15, while Benjamin Caven of France won the bronze. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gagnon earns second win

Canada's Marie-Michele Gagnon captured her second World Cup title of her skiing career Sunday, and credited a recent change in outlook.

The 26-year-old from Lac-Etchemin, Que., won the combined event, navigating a blazing slalom run that moved her up 12 spots after her super G. The victory comes two weeks after she won bronze in a World Cup slalom. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Scott victorious with conventional-length putter

Adam Scott won the Honda Classic and put to rest any notion that his career would suffer with a short putter.

In a tight duel with Sergio Garcia for the entire round Sunday at PGA National, Scott stayed out of the water and closed with an even-par 70 for a one-shot victory. It was his first title since Colonial in May 2014, and his first time winning with a conventional putter since 2010. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOCCER ROUNDUP

Meanwhile, United defeat Arsenal, Spurs win to stay 2nd

Manchester City added another League Cup to the growing collection of trophies under its Abu Dhabi ownership, beating Liverpool in a penalty shootout, with Yaya Toure converting the clinching spot kick on Sunday.

And on a day of double delight for the Manchester clubs, United damaged Arsenal's Premier League title challenge after new star Marcus Rashford scored twice in a 3-2 win. The 18-year-old striker has now scored four goals in his first two starts for United.

Second-place Tottenham rallied to beat Swansea 2-1 to trim the gap to surprise league leader Leicester to two points.

Man City manager Manuel Pellegrini claimed a third trophy in his three-year tenure that is ending this summer — and it was one of his contentious selections that paid off after the final finished 1-1 after extra time and went to penalties at Wembley Stadium.

Second-choice goalkeeper Willy Caballero was selected ahead of Joe Hart for the game — as he has done throughout this competition — and saved three penalties in the shootout. Toure slotted the decisive penalty into the corner to seal a 3-1 shootout win and became the man for the big occasion again, having scored in both of City's FA Cup and League Cup final victories in recent years.

Manchester City captain Vincent Kompany, centre, lifts the League Cup at Wembley Stadium after his side defeated Liverpool 3-1 on penalties following a 1-1 draw. GLYN KIRK/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

It was City's second League Cup title in three years and fifth trophy since the club was taken over by Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, a member of Abu Dhabi's royal family.

City went ahead in regulation time through Fernandinho and wasted a series of chances before Philippe Coutinho equalized in the 83rd minute. Coutinho was one of the three Liverpool players to have a penalty saved in the shootout, along with Lucas Leiva and Adam Lallana. In the Premier League, few could have imagined that it would be Leicester and Tottenham as the top two with 11 games left.

4

Number of goals Man. United's new teen star Marcus Rashford has in his first two games for club.

Tottenham kept up its pursuit of the leaders after scoring two goals in eight minutes — through Nacer Chadli and Danny Rose — to overhaul Swansea, which led early through Alberto Paloschi.

Arsenal is five points adrift of Leicester after another bad day at Old Trafford, where Rashford scored in the 29th and 32nd minutes to continue his dream start to his United career. On his senior debut on Thursday, Rashford also grabbed a double in the Europa League against FC Midtjylland.

After former United striker Danny Welbeck replied for Arsenal, Rashford set up Ander Herrera for a shot from the edge of the area that deflected in off Laurent Koscielny. Mesut Ozil made it 3-2 but fifth-place United held on comfortably to move three points off the top four. Arsenal hasn't won in the league at Old Trafford since 2006. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DIVISION TABLE

	GP	W-D-L	Pts.
Leicester	27	16-8-3	56
Tottenham	27	15-9-3	54
Arsenal	27	15-6-6	51
Man. City	26	14-5-7	47
Man.United	27	12-8-7	44
West Ham	27	11-10-6	43
S'hampton	27	11-7-9	40
Stoke City	27	11-6-10	39
Liverpool	26	10-8-8	38
Watford	27	10-7-10	37
Chelsea	27	9-9-9	36
Everton	26	8-11-7	35
West Brom	27	9-8-10	35
Crys. Palace	27	9-5-13	32
B'mouth	27	7-8-12	29
Swansea	27	6-9-12	27
Norwich	27	6-6-15	24
Newcastle	26	6-6-14	24
Sunderland	27	6-5-16	23
Aston Villa	27	3-7-17	16

Champions League
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RECIPE Roasted Cod Provençal

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This flaky cod sits in a thick and delicious sauce featuring herbs and olives. Trust us. It's all about the olives.

Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Total time: 30 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 red onion, sliced
- 1 bulb of fennel, trimmed and thinly sliced (retain the fennel fronds for garnish)
- 1 red pepper, trimmed and thinly sliced
- 1/4 tsp dried thyme
- 1/4 tsp dried oregano
- 1 can of tomatoes (28 oz.)
- 1/3 cup black olives, pitted
- 4 filets of cod

Directions
1. Preheat the oven to 350 F.
2. In a large skillet, warm olive oil over medium heat. Toss in the garlic, onions and fennel and sauté for about 5 minutes until vegetables begin to soften. Add the peppers and the herbs and cook for another 3 minutes.
3. Add the tomatoes and olives. Use the back of a wooden spoon to break up the tomatoes. Allow to simmer and thicken, about 10 minutes.
4. Pour the sauce into a baking dish. Lay the cod over the sauce and bake for 12 to 15 minutes, until fish is flaky.
5. Sprinkle finely chopped fennel fronds over top.

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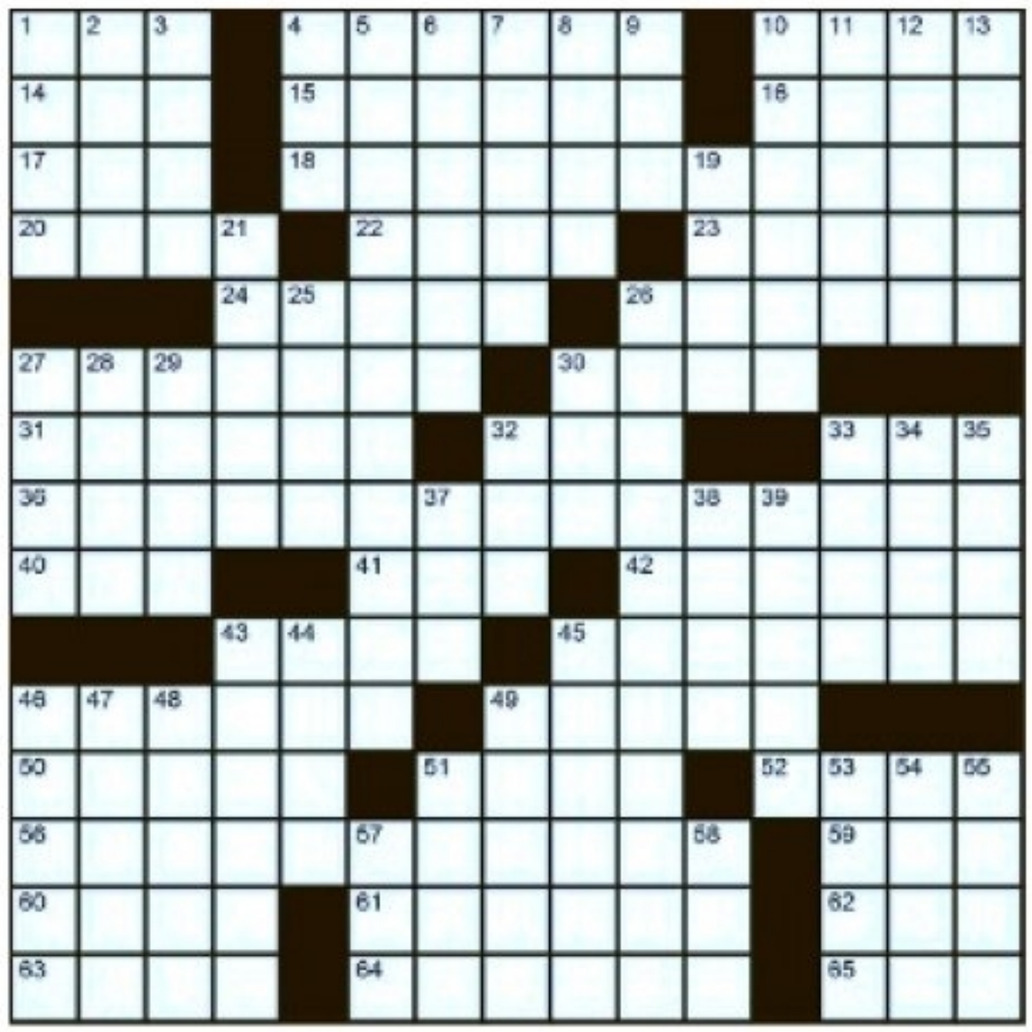
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Premium auto maker
4. Clash hit: "Rock the _"
10. Sitar song
14. Regret
15. Woolly animal
16. Biblical grandson
17. Publicize
18. Leap Year: Today is February _-_
20. Mr. Kinnear
22. Tibet's shaggy animals
23. Rinse with a solvent
24. Connects
26. Loonie
27. Turns in the coupons
30. Lots
31. "That may be, however...": 2 wds.
32. There: Latin
33. Univ. paper
36. BC: _ _ National Park
40. Tic-Tac-Toe losing line
41. Lana Del Who?
42. Canuck rocker Neil's family
43. Stairway feature
45. Madrid language
46. Arrow-throwing matchmaker's
49. Bogus
50. Fennel-like flavour
51. Ben _ (Sci-Fi author of Return to Mars)
52. _ Canal
56. Passes-processing person: 2 wds.
59. Blue/orange jerseys NHL team [acronym]
60. Theatrical opening, _ _
61. Insight
62. 'Fall' suffix (Misconception)
63. Midday
64. Fido can't stay here: 2 wds.
65. Caribbean music

DOWN
1. Talk big
2. "The Ghost & Mrs. _"
3. Jewel's "You _ Meant for Me"
4. Meower
5. 1984 Los Angeles: Olympic kayak champion who raised an eagle feather when he and teammate Hugh Fisher won gold for Canada: 2 wds.
6. Verbalizes
7. Does depositing
8. Parliament statutes
9. Barnyard bale
10. Showbiz personality, Charles Nelson _
11. Invalidate
12. "Something's _ Give" (2003)
13. Peter of '60s pop duo Peter and Gordon
19. Vegas illuminator
21. Ms. Close
25. 'Class' suffix (Most elegant)
26. Discovery Channel science show: 2 wds.
27. San _, Italy
28. Rachael Ray's lettered liquid
29. Two: French
30. British honour [acronym]
32. Crawling plant
33. Rice-A-_
34. Mail deliveries, e.g.
35. Musician/radio personality John
37. Seafood, to some
38. "_, _ I was saying..."
39. Songs
43. Co-host of #26-Down, Dan _
44. "Zip-_-_-Doo-Dah"
45. "I need heeeelp!": 2 wds.
46. The Settlers of _ (Board game)
47. Canadian food company since 1917
48. Prefix to 'graph' (Cave drawing, for instance)
49. Be a pair of glasses coming in from the cold: 2 wds.
51. Betty Crocker salad topping soya bit
53. Irish actress Ms. O'Connor's
54. 15th-century Flemish painter, Jan van _
55. Ms. Tong, co-host of the Canadian show at #26-Down
57. Beige
58. Belonging to Memphis' li'l state

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
What someone is offering you may seem like a good deal but is it really? Hold out for more because you are way above average in skill, commitment and intelligence. They need you more than you need them.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
There are times in life when it is better to give up than to struggle on with a thankless task and this may well be one of them. Take the hint and move on to something else.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Stop worrying what other people think about you. You are who you are and no one has the right to demand you be anything else. Don't listen to those advising you otherwise.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Don't just believe what other people tell you today — find out for yourself. Most likely you will quickly see through their lies and distortions and arrive at a truth that is very different to what they wanted you to believe.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
The news you get today won't be as bad as you feared, so look on the bright side. If you make a habit of seeing things in a negative light then they may become self-fulfilling.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Forget about making changes because you're still heading in the right direction. Contrary to what some people might be telling you, your life does not need a major rethink.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Financial and career concerns seem to be taking up a lot of your time and emotional energy. You know from past experience that it will all come right in the end. Find reasons to smile, and make others smile too.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
It may be true that your working life is in a bit of a rut but don't go doing anything drastic just yet. You are advised to sit back, relax and watch (and laugh at) the passing parade.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Spell out in plain and simple language what it is you need done. If you leave room for doubt you can be sure that someone will get it wrong and cause unnecessary mayhem.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The more you try to analyze your current situation the more complicated it looks, so why not take the hint and let it be? Focus on things you feel more comfortable with.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
If you don't slow down you could end up falling down! Your emotional and intellectual energy may be unlimited but your physical energy is not. Don't burn yourself out.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
It's important that you treat someone fairly, even if they do not fully deserve it. They have broken the rules, but if you look at their situation with a little more sympathy you may find they did not have much of a choice.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

		9						
	7		3					
4		2		6				1
	9		7				1	
1		4				6		3
	3				4		5	
5				1		4		2
					5		3	
						8		

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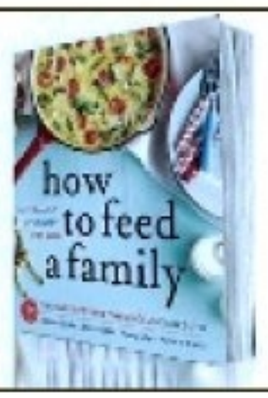

FRIDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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4	9	7	5	2	8	6	1	3
5	3	2	6	7	1	9	4	8
6	8	1	9	4	3	7	5	2
2	4	3	1	8	6	5	9	7
7	6	9	2	5	4	3	8	1
8	1	5	3	9	7	2	6	4
9	5	8	7	1	2	4	3	6
3	7	4	8	6	5	1	2	9
1	2	6	4	3	9	8	7	5

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